Controversies for the selection of consultant

†2545. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain suggestions have been sought from a private sector organization with a view to getting maximum dividend through the investment of the money of Employees' Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the name of this organisation and the reasons for its selection; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the above-said organisation was involved in controversies in the recent years and if so, the details of such controversies?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund had invited open bids through advertisements in the leading news papers, for one time study on various aspects relating to investment management of EPFO funds. Final decision was taken by CBT, EPF after conducting objective comparative analysis of various contenders, to engage M/s Mercer Human Rsources Consulting for the job.

(c) No controversies are noticed in case of aforesaid Indian arm of multinational company.

Social security cover to workers

2546. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission, in its mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan has recommended the introduction of an universal scheme for providing social security cover to all workers engaged in the informal and un-organised sector;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has also proposed with legislation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

changes to be introduced to ensure that the interests of contract workers are protected, and they are also provided with a social security cover;

(c) if so, whether recommendations of Planning Commission has been accepted; and

(d) the steps being considered to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. The Planning Commission has not yet completed its exercise on Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Compensation of retrenched workers

2547. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give compensation to retrenched workers due to liberalisation and privatisation policy;

(b) if so, the mode of compensation calculation and wherefrom this expenditure would be met; and

(c) the number of workers expected to be covered under this plan?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Provisions already exist under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for compensation to every worker employed in an industry, who has been in continuous service for not less than one year under an employer, in the event of retrenchment. As per the Act, the compensation, to be paid by the employer; should be equivalent to fifteen days' average pay for every completed year of continuous service or any part thereof in excess of six months.

The Government has also allowed Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) to introduce Voluntary Retirement Schemes (VRS) with attractive compensation for its employees in the event of manpower rationalisation.